

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION Aug. 23, 2004

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

## ARE YOUR KIDS READY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL?

Parents Encouraged to Check Children's Immunization Records to Be Sure

Summer is almost over and back-to-school is on everyone's mind. Buying clothes and school supplies usually top the to-do list, but one very important item may not be on the list: Immunizations.

"During this busy time, parents may forget about making sure their kids have all the shots they need for school entry," said Nancy Bowen, M.D., County of San Diego Health Officer. "But checking children's immunization status is important to fully protect them against dangerous diseases like whooping cough, measles and hepatitis B."

Also, school staff reviews immunization records at entry to kindergarten and seventh grade to make sure immunizations were received. Proper proof of immunizations is required or children may be excluded from school, "which no parent would want," Bowen said.

It's easy to make sure children have proper proof of immunizations. Parents should get their child's immunization records and either call their child's doctor, or the Baby Shots Line at (619) 692-6600 during business hours to review the records with a nurse. For more information about immunizations, please visit <a href="https://www.immunization-sd.org">www.immunization-sd.org</a>.

###